

Fort Ramsey, Upton's Hill, Virginia.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862

Miss Deborah Weston!

I suppose you received my short letter, wherein I informed you that we left Camp Barry last Wednesday. Our marching order came quite unexpected. We had just harnessed up and were ready to go out drilling as usual, — but the Captain's voice sound through our ears like a Thunderbolt, — "Strike your tents; Quick! Quick! We have to march right off." Three Cheers were given for the marching order and every one of us was happy — prospecting to march till to the front of our Army, to face the Enemy. I then wrote a few lines in hurry to inform you and Almira of our movement, and not to send me the Box until I get expected every day. — We all then went to work in packing our Ammunition to feed the Rebels with, struck the tents and were ready to start at twelve o'clock, and left the Camp, in Company with the 11<sup>th</sup> Mass. Battery, under Cheers from the other remaining Batteries. We marched through the Capitol and Georgetown, crossed the Potomac on Chain-bridge —

where Captain De Veckie had to report himself  
to General Hinkelrumb where we got the order  
to march as far as Hall's-hill, or Hall's-farm.  
We arrived there at 6 o'clock in the Evening it was  
dark and muddy and rained hard, Men and Horses  
were tired and ~~did~~ go without our Supper, all of  
us were looking for a good place to rest during  
the Night. We could not pitch the Tents while  
the polls were back with the baggage Wagon  
We then took Virginia Rail-fences down, and  
used them as many as we felt need to place the  
Cannons over, I could not lay down for the  
Ground was too wet, but I found an other plain  
and that was, I took the cover of from the  
Ammunition Chest on the Caeron, and both Hand-spikes  
from the Limber, to make me a Shelter, to sleep on  
the top of the Chest, containing Solid Shot, Shells,  
spherical case Shot, and Canister. I took my Knapsack  
for my Pillow, placed it between the Wheels and  
the Chest, so as to let one ~~end~~ of it rest on the  
fire, which gave me room enough to stretch  
my legs out, I then took the Blanket and turned  
in, and spent the night, like the Hen, of her brood of Chickens.  
Your letter of Nov.



Day-light arrived at last. I did not sleep much  
for the Horses which were tied on the Wheels around  
me were very uneasy, and the Rain which poured  
over my head on the Canvas prevent it, about  
nine o'clock we got our hot Coffee with bread and  
ate it with great appetite. We then attended to our  
Horses for taking them out the Mud and pitched  
the tents, our Horses were hitched every where  
where a good place could be found, but the  
1<sup>st</sup> Maryland, the 2<sup>d</sup> Connecticut & the 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry  
had the Woods all covered with their Horses  
so that ours had to remain in some places  
all day in the Mud. The night was on hand  
whereby we had to give Gard the watch the Horses  
(I was on the third relieve and stood from  
9 - 11 o'clock in the Evening) and from 3 - 4  
o'clock the other morning, during a steady rain &  
storm day and night, about twelve o'clock Friday  
an Order arrived again to strike the Tents and  
march to Upton's hill near Fallschurch which  
was four miles from the Camp. We could not  
start with the whole Battery at once together  
for some of our Horses went off for some Provision  
November the 19<sup>th</sup> I received yesterday



The right and left Section move (I belong to the left  
so we went on, but it was very muddy — Nothing but  
mud, the wheels sunk down of some places till  
under the axle, we arrived at Duttons hill at  
five o'clock and came in a fort which is called  
Fort Ramsey — the Rebels had this fort in possession  
Fallchurch is near by us, it is a Village with  
a Steeple in the middle —

The first Section under Lieutenant Erigson  
is in an other fort half a mile from this one we are  
in

How how is it about the Box — I am  
sorry that I stored it for I would have it now  
in my possession. I do not know how long we are going  
to stay here, our Movement depends on the Enemy's  
Movement perhaps we may stay a Week and perhaps  
a Month — I would say if it for not make any trouble now  
so that I may get it as soon as possible right off — to send  
it to me and I will get it some how or time or  
our time. We are from Washington about 8 My  
but a Train goes in regular once a day  
Please read this letter to Almira

I shall write some more very soon  
My very best regards to Mrs. Norton and to you  
all  
Yours Augustus H. S.  
7th Mass Battery, 1st de V. B.  
Fort Ramsey  
at Duttons hill Virginia  
near Washington D.C.